

Bridgeport Evening Farmer

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PRICE TWO CENTS

SINKING OF STEAMER PERSIA, WITH LOSS OF AMERICAN LIFE, CREATES NEW CRISIS; PRESIDENT CUTS SHORT HONEYMOON TRIP

CORONER WILL INQUIRE INTO DEATH OF MAN WHO HAD NO DOCTOR

Medical Examiner of Stratford Reports Case of John T. MacIlroy to County Official—Dead Man Had Leaned Toward Christian Science But Was Not Member of the Faith.

Unusual circumstances attending the death of John T. MacIlroy, a prominent resident of Stratford, have been reported by Medical Examiner William H. Cogswell of that town to Coroner John J. Phelan.

MacIlroy's death occurred early today. He had been ill for 10 days. Rheumatism was believed to be the cause of his illness, at first, but as his condition grew more serious complications arose. No physician saw the invalid until last night, when Dr. De Ruyter Howland, of Stratford, was summoned by the little son of the patient.

Because of the critical nature of his illness, the physician, learning that no other medical aid had been given MacIlroy, reported the circumstances to Dr. Cogswell. That official today gave the cause of death as bronchial pneumonia, but owing to the non-attendance of physicians, he decided that the case was properly one for the coroner to investigate.

MacIlroy had taken a keen interest in the tenets of Christian Science. This, his friends said today, was the reason he refused to allow any physician to attend him. He was not a member of the Christian Science church, although he often attended its meetings. His pastor, Rev. E. C. Carpenter, called at the MacIlroy home, in Spring street, yesterday. It was said in Stratford today that the clergyman recommended urgently to the sick man's family that a physician be called, and that on his representations the little son of MacIlroy called on Dr. Howland last evening, summoning him to the home, 117 Warwick avenue.

COUNSEL DENIES GERTRUDE PIKE IS NOT NORMAL

Never Has Been Insane, Pleads Attorney, in Superior Court Today.

Gertrude Pike, the rich New York resident who is making a fight to be released from Dr. Givens' sanitarium in Stamford, appeared again before Judge Curtis in the civil superior court this morning. She was accompanied by two nurses from the sanitarium. Mrs. Pike, a pale-faced woman, apparently about 35 years old, was handsomely dressed.

She declares her husband, Arthur E. Pike, a prominent Wall street broker, abducted her from her Riverside Drive apartment and rushed her in an automobile to the Stamford sanitarium in October, 1914. Last month she was formally adjudged insane by two physicians appointed by the Stamford probate court.

Attorney Tinney of New York, who represents Mrs. Pike, filed a petition today in which he declared Mrs. Pike was not a resident of this state, that she is not and never has been insane and has been deprived of her liberty without due process of law. Attorney Lockwood, of Stamford, representing Dr. Givens, asked time to frame a reply to this petition so court was adjourned until late this afternoon. Mrs. Pike was brought into court on a writ of habeas corpus served on Dr. Givens.

WOMAN ROBBED OF \$300 IN STOCKING WHILE SHE SLEEPS

Mrs. Paula Crooks, whose husband, John, is a Crane Co. employee, went to bed with her stockings on last night, because she thought one of the stockings would be the safest place she could select to conceal a roll of \$300 the family had accumulated for furnishing a new home.

About 2 o'clock this morning her boarding house, 405 Main street, resounded with screams of the lady who shared the mother's bed. Mrs. Crooks awoke and felt a draft upon her lower limbs. She started up with sudden fear, found her stockings down, and her money gone.

Bright and early she appeared in the detective bureau at police headquarters to ask assistance in recovering her little fortune.

BIRMINGHAM TO RESIGN BY JUNE; MANY VISIT HIM

Head of Police Department Has Many Callers At Headquarters.

MANY CHANGES IN DEPARTMENT SOON

Cronan is Likely to Get Arnold's Place in Detective Bureau.

Superintendent Eugene Birmingham of the police department today stated to the Farmer that he will resign this year. He has not decided definitely on the date but said that it might be as early as April. The superintendent is completing his 44th year in the police department. He was appointed a member Nov. 25, 1912.

At police headquarters this morning were more than a score of admirers of the superintendent, many of them prominent in the civic life of Bridgeport, who called to extend the seasons greetings. Many of them urged him to alter his purpose of resigning, but to no avail. All complimented him upon his unblemished record for service, a record which has no equal in the country.

Who will be the successor of Supt. Birmingham is still unsettled. It may be Lieut. Charles H. Suckley. There will be many other changes including those in the detective bureau, to be caused by the resignation of Captain George H. Arnold, which will take place at the same time as that of Supt. Birmingham.

Edward O. Cronan, senior detective sergeant, is likely to be head of the bureau. Lieut. Philip Blansfield also is mentioned.

Around police headquarters the latest surprise is the mention of Detective Sergeant George A. Haux as the probable appointee to the proposed new position of Lieutenant of the detective bureau. Sergeant Haux has acted as clerk for Captain Arnold as well as handling the Bertillon system for the last six years. Haux is a son-in-law of Superintendent Birmingham. Captain John H. Redgate is said to have the backing of the manufacturing interests for the office of Superintendent.

Captain John H. Regan has also been mentioned for the office and if the choice of his successor was left to Superintendent Birmingham it is said that Capt. Regan would receive the appointment.

Among the men mentioned for retirement are: Superintendent Eugene Birmingham, 44 years on the department; Capt. George H. Arnold, 47 years; Captain William H. Anderson, 43 years; Detective Sergeant Peter Hackett, 32 years; Lieutenant John Quinlivan, 28 years; Deppman Charles Lush, 27 years. It is said that there are four other due to walk the plank. The police board have asked for an appropriation calling for the appointment of 60 policemen. If this request is granted several more street sergeants will be appointed and ten men added to the detective bureau. A squad of 20 plainclothes men will be assigned to night duty on the streets to combat the efforts of burglars, thieves and pickpockets.

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EXPLOSION ON VESSEL KILLS ONE

New York, Jan. 3.—One man was killed, 10 were seriously injured and 18 others are missing following an explosion and fire today in the steamship Aztec at a Brooklyn dry dock.

Miss Hummel Gives New Year's Function

Miss Harriet Hummel entertained a party of friends at her home, 119 James street, New Year's evening. Ravens in keeping with the holiday spirit were presented to the guests. Singing and dancing were enjoyed and a luncheon was served. The color scheme was red and green. Among those present were: Miss Gorman, Hazel Cavanaugh, Ester Laveen, Louise Franz, Margaret Rivers, Bessie Garvey, Katherine Brennan, Florence and Beatrice Coughlin, Mrs. Annie Coughlin, Arthur Wistarsky, Walter Laveen, Gus Herthal, Jr., Joe Falvey, Denis Tobin, William Lamond, and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred W. Tomlinson.

TEN KILLED AS ANOTHER BRITISH PASSENGER SHIP IS TORPEDOED AND SUNK

London, Jan. 3.—The British steamship Glengyle has been sunk. Ten lives were lost. There are about 100 survivors.

The Glengyle had on board about 120 persons, passengers and crew. All, with the exception of three Europeans and seven Chinese, were landed. So far as is known no Americans were on board.

The Glengyle, which was homeward bound from Shanghai, was sunk in the Mediterranean on Sunday. This was her second voyage.

The Glengyle sailed from Shanghai for London on Nov. 25. She was last reported at Singapore on Dec. 6. Her route would take her through the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean, and it may be assumed she was sunk in the Mediterranean. Latest advices from Cairo and Alexandria indicate that 153 survivors have been landed, of whom 59 were passengers. Hope that others have been saved is diminishing, as four days have now elapsed since the vessel was destroyed.

No further word has been received concerning Robert N. McNeely, American consul at Aden, Arabia, and there seems to be little doubt that he was drowned. The safety of Charles Grant, of Boston, having been established, it is thought Mr. McNeely was the only American who perished. It is still impossible to give even with approximate accuracy the loss of life, as the number of persons on board has not been established.

DEATH LIST ON PERSIA TOTALS MORE THAN 200; AMERICAN CONSUL LOST

London, Jan. 3.—The loss of life in connection with the sinking of the British steamship Persia torpedoed in the Eastern Mediterranean on Thursday afternoon, is still a matter of debate. Latest advices from Cairo and Alexandria indicate that 153 survivors have been landed, of whom 59 were passengers. Hope that others have been saved is diminishing, as four days have now elapsed since the vessel was destroyed.

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RUSSIAN FRONT SCENE OF NEW ALLIED ATTACK

General Ivanoff's Forces in Drive Make Considerable Headway.

London, Jan. 3.—The latest despatches from the southern extremity of the Russian front indicate that heavy fighting is continuing, with the Russian army of General Ivanoff gaining ground. One correspondent reports that these operations began with an offensive movement on the part of the Austrians, designed to straighten their line and that after repulsing this attack, the Russians assumed the initiative.

It is evident that the Russian advance has now extended a considerable distance beyond the Stripa river. In other despatches it is asserted that two great offensive actions clashed, the Russians having advanced as a threat against the Teutons in their Balkan operations while the Austrians and Germans felt the necessity of improving their positions against the Russian. Whatever may be the facts of the case, there is no doubt the result of these operations will have an important effect on the Balkan campaign.

It is reported with increasing frequency that the central powers are planning an attack on Saloniki but they are said to be experiencing difficulties in that connection. It is wished to participate in such a campaign unless it promises something more than expulsion of the allies from Saloniki.

In Athens anxious thought is being given to the seizure of the consuls representing Germany and her allies at Saloniki. It is expected that so far as Greece is concerned, the incident will be closed with the release of the consuls under safe conduct.

While requiring some action by the entente powers, Greece also has protested to Germany against the introduction in the House of Commons on Wednesday.

England awaits with interest details regarding the bill for compulsory military service which Premier Asquith introduced in the House of Commons on Wednesday.

It is announced that Ireland will come within the scope of the bill.

THE WEATHER

Fair and colder Tuesday.

Chief Executive To Return To Capital at Once To Take Charge of Investigation of Newest U-Boat Attack—Vienna, Ready to Disavow Attack If By Austrian Submarine. Asks For Fullest Inquiry—Parallel to Arabic Crisis Seen in Loss of Passenger Ship With United States Consul Aboard—State Department To Serve Warnings on All Teutonic Allies.

DEVELOPMENTS TODAY IN SUBMARINE WARFARE AFFECTING UNITED STATES

President Wilson curtails honeymoon and leaves Hot Springs, Va., for Washington to direct investigation of attack on steamer Persia.

Baron Zwiednek, Austrian charge in Washington, says Vienna will repudiate sinking if accomplished by Austrian submarine.

Steamer Persia carried one gun, United States consul reports. Position of gun mounting will figure largely in determining whether attack was warranted.

Officials view latest developments in U-boat warfare, which killed one American, as paralleling crisis with Germany over Arabic incident.

Another British steamer, the Glengyle, with 120 passengers, sunk in Mediterranean. No Americans reported among ten lives lost.

Washington, Jan. 3.—President Wilson will return to the capital tomorrow to take charge of the new crisis in foreign relations caused by the submarine campaign in the Mediterranean with the loss of American life.

After conferences over the telephone between the President and Private Secretary Tumulty and Secretary Lansing, it was announced at the White House and also at Hot Springs, Va., that the President would start back to Washington tonight, arriving tomorrow.

CASE PARALLELS ARABIC CRISIS

It was stated authoritatively that the destruction of the British liner Persia, with loss of American life, and the sinking of the British ship Glengyle had put such a serious aspect on the relations of the United States with the Teutonic powers that the President considered it necessary to return to the White House at once for conferences with Secretary Lansing and the other members of the cabinet to shape the course of the government.

The situation as it exists today was described in official quarters as paralleling the crisis which was caused by the sinking of the Arabic close on Germany's assurances in response to the presentations of the United States on the destruction of the Lusitania.

During the morning Baron Zwiednek, Charge of the Austrian embassy, called on Secretary Lansing and asked that judgment be withheld until all the facts were in and expressed his belief that a final explanation would be satisfactory. He also sought any available information for the benefit of his government.

AUSTRIA READY TO REPUDIATE ATTACK

Baron Zwiednek also assured Secretary Lansing that if it were proved that an Austrian submarine had sunk the Persia his government would give full reparation and satisfaction.

While American officials are keeping their minds open until they have all the facts in the Persia case officially and know whether Americans were endangered in the sinking of the Glengyle, the gravity of the situation is not minimized and the declaration of Baron Zwiednek, the Austrian charge, that he was confident the final explanation would satisfy, has not lessened the tension.

One new fact developed today in the Persia case. The American consul at Alexandria reported that the ship carried one 4.7 inch gun but did not state where the gun was mounted. This may become a factor in the case. The Hague convention, however, provides that a merchant ship may carry a gun mounted on the stern for purposes of defense without being considered an armed ship.

Persia Carried Gun

The official view here is that the question of whether a gun was mounted on the Persia will depend entirely on where it was placed. If mounted forward officials realized the Austrian government could contend the Persia was armed for destruction of submarines and had instructions to ram or destroy the submarines. The disposition is not to assign the incident of the gun to a place in consideration of the case until all the facts are known.

Officials consider that the Austrian submarine campaign in the Mediterranean has brought on just such a crisis as did the German submarine campaign in the declared war zone around the British Isles. Coming close on the conciliatory assurances in Austria's Ancona note, the continued submarine activity principally around the entrance to the Suez Canal has alarmed and amazed American officials who have grave apprehensions over the development of the next few days.

The department gave out two despatches regarding the sinking of the Persia. The first, from Consul General Armit, dated Jan. 1 follows: "P. & O. steamer Persia torpedoed 40 miles southeast of Crete, Thursday, 1:05 p. m., without warning. Nationality submarine unknown as not visible."

The second was from Consul General at Alexandria, Egypt, dated Jan. 1, and received yesterday. It was: "P. & O. liner Persia, carrying 4.7 gun, sunk five minutes past 1 afternoon Dec. 30th, about 300 miles north-west Alexandria. Presumably torpedoed, no submarine was seen, second officer Bromley seeing torpedo's track."

Secretary Lansing announced his

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